

Documents on Diplomacy: Lessons

Squaring Off: NATO and the Cold War

Standard: I. Culture
II. Time, Continuity, and Change
III. People, Places, and Environments
V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
VI. Power, Authority, and Governance
VIII. Science, Technology and Society
IX. Global Connections
X. Civic Ideals and Practices

Grade Level: 9–12

Objectives: The student will:

- Understand defense alliances of the Cold War
- Evaluate the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization agreement
- Examine reasons for nations to form alliances
- Use geography skills to determine reasons for alliances
- Analyze the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union

Time: 1–3 class periods

Materials: Documents: **1949** *North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)*

Resources: *Map: NATO and the Warsaw Pact*
Truman's Address on the Signing of the NATO Pact
Taft Speech on the North Atlantic Treaty

Additional readings (if needed):

NATO, 1949: <http://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/NATO>

Warsaw Treaty Organization: <http://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/WarsawTreaty>

Timelines: http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1543000.stm?ad=1

Exercises: *Taking Sides on the North Atlantic Treaty*
Identifying NATO Members
The North Atlantic Treaty and the United Nations

Procedures:

Note to teacher:

This lesson consists of several activities that can be done independently or in sequence. A variety of methods are available based on needs and time constraints of the teacher. Each activity should take less than one class period.

Activity 1

- 1.** Provide students with the speeches by President Truman and Senator Taft and the exercise, *Taking Sides on the North Atlantic Treaty*.
- 2.** Have students read the speeches and record reasons FOR the treaty as given by President Truman and reasons AGAINST the treaty as given by Senator Taft. Have students apply the terms to the speeches and explain which speech matches the appropriate term and why.
- 3.** Discuss the information collected by students.

Activity 2

- 1.** Distribute copies of the map, *NATO and Warsaw Pact Countries*. The map key/legend is included separately.
- 2.** Without identifying the topic of the map, ask students:
 - a.** What do the different colors represent?
 - b.** What appears to be the geographic dividing line or separation between the main colors?
 - c.** Does the separation into two sides appear economic, social, geographic, or political in scope?
 - d.** Why might the two main colors be seen as "squaring off" for future events?
 - e.** Why do some countries not belong to either of the main sides?
 - f.** Do alliances exist in this depiction of Europe?
 - g.** Have students create a title for the map.
- 3.** Project the key/legend for students to identify the designated areas.
- 4.** Discuss the economic, social, political, and geographic implications of these alliances.

Activity 3

- 1.** Provide copies of the document, *The North Atlantic Treaty Organization*.
- 2.** Ask students to read and analyze the document.
 - What commonalities do signatories of the treaty as stated in the PREAMBLE?
 - What are the obligations of the members?
 - ● What are the conditions for war?
 - ● How can additional countries be admitted to the alliance?
 - ● What references are made to the United Nations?
- 3.** Provide students with the exercise, *Identifying NATO Members*; instructions are provided with the exercise. (Answer key is at end of this activity.) The teacher should provide the years and allow students to include those with their chronological arrangement.

4. Refer students to the NATO Timeline. They should use the timeline to check their chronology of membership. What historical events created the roster of countries that belong to NATO today?

Activity 4

- 1.** Distribute the exercise, *The North Atlantic Treaty and the United Nations*.
- 2.** Have students assume the role of a writer of the North Atlantic Treaty and supply the requested information.
- 3.** Discuss the students' responses. ■

**KEY FOR THE EXERCISE,
IDENTIFYING NATO MEMBERS**

- United Kingdom (1949)
- United States (1949)
- Portugal (1949)
- Luxembourg (1949)
- Netherlands (1949)
- Norway (1949)
- Iceland (1949)
- Italy (1949)
- France (1949)
- Denmark (1949)
- Canada (1949)
- Belgium (1949)
- Greece (1952)
- Turkey (1952)
- (West) Germany (1955)
- Spain (1982)
- Czech Republic (1999)
- Hungary (1999)
- Poland (1999)
- Bulgaria (2004)
- Estonia (2004)
- Latvia (2004)
- Lithuania (2004)
- Romania (2004)
- Slovakia (2004)
- Slovenia (2004)
- Albania (2009)
- Croatia (2009)